



HR0721

LRB099 14025 GRL 38048 r

1

HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
 3 Representatives wish to congratulate the congregation of  
 4 Baileyville Baptist Church on the occasion of the church's  
 5 150th anniversary on September 3, 2015; and

6           WHEREAS, In 1856, the families of Christopher Wilhelms and  
 7 Jodokus Bohlen, both German Baptists, arrived in Silver Creek  
 8 Township; soon, there were enough East Frisian families in the  
 9 area that religious meetings were held in the home of Mr.  
 10 Wilhelms and later in the home of Harm Eckhoff; the growing  
 11 desire among these immigrants to establish a church resulted in  
 12 a meeting on September 3, 1865, at which a decision was made to  
 13 form a new congregation named "Die Erste Ostfriesische  
 14 Baptisten Gemeinde of Silver Creek, Illinois"; a church council  
 15 consisting of Harm Eckhoff, Inderk Bonn, and Fokke Zimmerman  
 16 was elected and 36 people were charter members of the church;  
 17 almost all of the charter members were former members of the  
 18 Baptist Church in Inhren, Ostfriesland; and

19           WHEREAS, Church meetings continued in various homes until  
 20 the spring of 1868, when permission was obtained to use the  
 21 Diddens schoolhouse, situated in the country about halfway  
 22 between what are now Freeport and German Valley; in 1869, the  
 23 growing congregation called upon its first pastor, J. G.

1 Vanloh; in 1874, the construction of a church building was  
2 started on a tract of land at the north edge of Baileyville;  
3 the new church was dedicated on August 30, 1874; and

4 WHEREAS, In 1914, the official name of the congregation was  
5 changed to "Die Erste Deutsche Baptisten Gemeinde,  
6 Baileyville, Illinois"; on the night of February 4, 1920,  
7 tragedy struck when the church and all its contents were  
8 destroyed by fire; construction of a new, large brick building  
9 was begun almost immediately, and this new church building was  
10 dedicated on March 20, 1921; in later years, the official name  
11 of the church was changed to First Baptist Church of  
12 Baileyville; the church is also known as Baileyville Baptist  
13 Church; and

14 WHEREAS, Over the church's history, the Baileyville  
15 Baptist Church has ministered to local people and has been  
16 involved in spreading the gospel throughout the United States,  
17 with church plants in Iowa, South Dakota, Montana, and  
18 throughout the State; its foreign missions program has seen  
19 ones sent out to Nigeria, Sudan, Japan, the Philippines,  
20 Canada, and India; the church also supports missionaries in  
21 Germany, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Mexico, Argentina,  
22 Israel, and Nepal; and

23 WHEREAS, Baileyville Baptist Church has had 34 pastors

1 serve as shepherd of the flock since the church's founding;  
2 former Pastor Delbert Rogers, who served the congregation from  
3 1980 to 1982, will be the guest speaker during the church's  
4 Anniversary Celebration; other pastors who have served in the  
5 past 25 years are Rev. Nelson Hadley (1984 - 1993), Rev. John  
6 Erenz (1995 - 2007), Rev. Alan Cassel (2007 - June 2015), and  
7 the church's current pastor, Rev. Gary Branam; and

8 WHEREAS, The congregation and pastorate of Baileyville  
9 Baptist Church serve as models of hard work, integrity, and  
10 dedication for the people of the State of Illinois; therefore,  
11 be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
13 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
14 congratulate the congregation of Baileyville Baptist Church on  
15 the occasion of the church's 150th anniversary and wish them  
16 continued success and happiness in the future; and be it  
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
19 presented to Baileyville Baptist Church as a symbol of our  
20 esteem and respect.